

SENATE BILL 2749

By Bell

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 37;
Title 38; Title 39 and Title 40, relative to the
reporting of a child who is missing or dead.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-10-202, is amended by designating the existing language as subsection (a) and by adding the following new subsections:

(b) It is an offense for a parent physically able to do so to fail to make or knowingly refuse to make all reasonable efforts to report a missing child to the appropriate authorities in accordance with subsection (a) within twenty-four (24) hours of the time the parent knew, learned or believed that the child was missing.

(c) Nothing in this section shall preclude prosecution and conviction of the parent, and any other person criminally responsible, for any other applicable offense relating to a failure to report pursuant to subsection (a).

(d) A parent who violates subsection (b) commits a Class E felony.

SECTION 2 . This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.